

Message Text

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17

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /090 W

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R 031708Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 789

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3350

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, UN, FR, GW, UR, UK, CCD

SUBJECT: ISRAELYAN ON SOVIET MDW PROPOSAL

REF: MOSCOW 2959, 75 MOSCOW 18044

1. SUMMARY. FRG AMBASSADOR SAHM HAS REPORTED ON MARCH 1 CONVERSATION WITH ISRAELYAN IN WHICH LATTER APPEARS TO HAVE GONE BEYOND PREVIOUS SOVIET MDW POSITIONS ON FOUR POINTS: PROPOSAL SHOULD NOT ENCOMPASS EXISTING WEAPONS; EXPERTS MIGHT START WITH WEAPONS OTHER THAN ABC WEAPONS; SOVIETS HAVE PICKED AN ACADEMICIAN-PHYSICIST FOR EXPERTS' MEETINGS; AND THEY HAVE PRACTICALLY GIVEN UP ON BILATERALS WITH FRG. END SUMMARY.

2. AT QUADRIPARTITE MEETING MARCH 2, FRG AMBASSADOR SAHM REPORTED ON DISCUSSION OF WEAPONS OF
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MASS DESTRUCTION (MDW) PROPOSAL DURING HIS MARCH 1

MEETING WITH SOVIET MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
DIVISION DIRECTOR V.L. ISRAELYAN ON ANOTHER TOPIC.

3. ISRAELYAN, WHO RAISED MDW, SAID THAT IN THE SOVIET VIEW THE PROPOSAL SHOULD RELATE TO WEAPONS WHICH DO NOT YET EXIST. THE PROPOSAL DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO PREVENT DEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING SYSTEMS. ONE COULD SAY, ISRAELYAN WENT ON, THAT IT HAS IN MIND ANY WEAPONS BEYOND ATOMIC, BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL (ABC) WEAPONS.

4. SAHM REJOINED THAT THE FRG CANNOT PRODUCE ABC WEAPONS, HAS NO INTENTION OF DEVELOPING ANYTHING NEW, AND BELIEVES ANY DISCUSSION SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN A CCD FRAMEWORK. IN REPLY, ISRAELYAN SAID THE SOVIETS ALSO HAVE NO INTENTION OF DEVELOPING NEW WEAPONS, BUT "IT IS KNOWN" THAT SCIENTISTS EVERYWHERE -- IN THE FRG, THE U.S., THE SOVIET UNION -- HAVE THAT CAPABILITY: "SUCH POSSIBILITIES ARE IN THE AIR." HE REFERRED TO PRESS ARTICLES IN THE WEST WHICH SHOW THAT NEW WEAPONS ARE "BEING THOUGHT OF." IT IS NOT JUST A MATTER FOR THE NUCLEAR POWERS; NON-NUCLEAR POWERS ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN SUCH THINGS.

5. AN INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE OF EXPERTS TO ASSESS THE SITUATION WOULD BE USEFUL, ISRAELYAN CONTINUED. "SOME SAY" THAT THE SOVIETS SHOULD SEND THEIR EXPERTS TO EXPLAIN WHAT THEY HAVE IN MIND, BUT THIS IS NOT THE RIGHT APPROACH. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A DEFINITION BY EXPERTS OF NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION; THIS IS AN "IMPORTANT NEW TASK." THE SOVIETS HOPE THE FRG WOULD ALSO NOMINATE AN EXPERT WHO WOULD BE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND COULD HELP WORK IN THIS DIRECTION.

6. WHEN SAHM COMMENTED THAT EVERYONE IN THE CCD EXPECTS THE SOVIETS TO EXPLAIN THEIR PROPOSAL, ISRAELYAN REPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS WILL PLAY A ROLE AND HAVE IDEAS OF THEIR OWN, BUT THAT THE IDEA THAT THE SOVIETS MUST DO SOMETHING IN THE CCD IS NOT A CORRECT ONE. SINCE THE SOVIETS HAVE STUDIED THE QUESTION MORE INTENSIVELY THAN OTHERS, THEY HAVE MORE QUESTIONS THAN OTHERS.

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7. THE SOVIETS DO NOT INSIST ON BILATERAL TALKS CONCERNING MWD, ISRAELYAN WENT ON. THEY HAD ONLY PROPOSED SUCH BILATERALS TO THE FRG IN CASE THE FRG WERE INTERESTED. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN GENEVA.

8. THE SOVIETS WOULD PRESENT THEIR IDEAS LATER, ISRAELYAN SAID, BUT HE SPECIFIED THAT THEIR PRINCIPAL EXPERT WOULD BE

A PHYSICIST WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, AND THAT HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER EXPERTS. (COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT ISRAELYAN HAS IN MIND Y.K. FEDOROV, WHO LEAD THE SOVIET DELEGATION IN BILATERAL ENMOD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S. WHILE NOT STRICTLY A "PHYSICIST", FEFOROV IS AN ABLE NEGOTIATOR WITH A GOOD DEAL OF EXPERIENCE IN ARMS CONTROL.)

9. FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT SAID HE HAD AS YET RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS CONCERNING THE SOVIET FEBRUARY 18 PROPOSAL FOR A BILATERAL (REFTEL), HE EXPECTED THE TOPIC WOULD ARISE DURING DE COURCELLES' UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS IN MOSCOW.

10. UK AMBASSADOR SMITH SAID HE FELT THERE WAS SOME HOPE IN LONDON THAT DISCUSSIONS COULD TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA, BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN THE CCD.

11. COMMENT. BY OUR READING, ISRAELYAN CONTINUES TO SHOW THAT HE HIMSELF IS NOT ALL THAT CERTAIN WHAT MWD MEANS. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH SAHM, HOWEVER, HE APPEARS TO HAVE GONE FURTHER THAN PREVIOUS SOVIET STATEMENTS ON THE MWD PROPOSAL ON FOUR POINTS: (1) IT SHOULD RELATE TO WEAPONS WHICH DO NOT YET EXIST, THUS CONTRADICTING TO SOME DEGREE HIS PRAVDA ARTICLE IN DECEMBER (SECOND REF) IN WHICH HE SAID THAT THE MDW BAN WOULD APPLY TO NEW SYSTEMS USING ALREADY EXISTING WEAPONS; (2) FOR A START, THE TASK MIGHT BEGIN WITH WEAPONS OTHER THAN ABC WEAPONS; (3) THE SOVIETS HAVE ALREADY PICKED AN ACADEMICIAN-PHYSICIST FOR "EXPERT DISCUSSION"; (4) FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES, THEY APPEAR TO HAVE GIVEN UP ON BILATERALS WITH FRG. SMITH'S REMARKS ALSO SUGGEST BRITISH MAY BE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO INVOLVE FRENCH FROM THE OUT-SET, EVEN IF IT MEANS STARTING OUTSIDE THE CCD.
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